

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for converting e-mail (electronic mail) data into audio data, comprising:

a communication connector connected to an email server via a communication line and comprising:

a controller configured to control a conversion of ~~received~~ e-mail data received from the server into e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data, and

an audio data generator configured to convert the e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data into ~~an audio signal~~ audio data including corresponding audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data ~~and to transmit the audio data to a client through the communication connector upon a client request~~, the audio attachment-type identifier data being an announcement of the existence and type of an attachment to the email; and

a memory configured to store the e-mail data, ~~the e-mail message data~~, and the audio data,

wherein the communication connector is directly connected to the server and operates to transmit the audio data to a client upon the client's request.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an e-mail client program installed system.

3. (Previously Proposed) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a video unit configured to process the e-mail message data; and

a display unit configured to display the e-mail message data processed by the video unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~the~~-plural attachment types comprise an image-type attachment, a video-type attachment, an audio-type attachment, and an email-type attachment.

5. (Previously Proposed) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the email message header information identifies a sender's name, a sending date, and a subject of the e-mail.

6. (Previously Proposed) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the controller is further configured to identify a total number of e-mails received by the apparatus and audio data generator is configured to generate a corresponding audio message to send to the client.

7. (Previously Proposed) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the email data further includes gender information and the audio data generator is configured to generate the audio signal in a male voice that is not a sender's voice if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a male, and to generate the audio signal in a female voice that is not the sender's if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a female.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the male voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail, and the female voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for converting e-mail data into audio data, comprising the steps of:

receiving an e-mail from an email server;

storing the received e-mail received from the email server as e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data;

receiving a request to retrieve the email, including verifying a requestor's identification;

converting the e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data to audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data, the

audio attachment-type identifier data being an announcement of the existence and type of an attachment to the email;

saving in a memory the audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data; and

transmitting the audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data to the client as an audio signal,

wherein said transmitting is performed bypassing an intermediary between the e-mail server and the client.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein in said audio converting and storing steps, identification information of the sender of the e-mail is checked and an audio conversion is implemented based on the checked result.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the identifying step includes a step of judging whether there is an e-mail received after the client's identification has been identified.

12. (Previously Proposed) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of transmitting a message indicating that the e-mail is not received when the e-mail is not received.

13. (Previously Proposed) The method of claim 9, further comprising a step of referencing the sender of the e-mail in an address list.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said identifying step is implemented using a telephone line or using a direct access to an e-mail service system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the e-mail data includes gender information of a sender of the e-mail, and said audio signal is generated based on the gender of the sender of the e-mail.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said audio signal is generated in a male voice that is not the sender's if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a male, and said audio signal is generated in a female voice that is not the sender's if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a female.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the male voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail, and the female voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail.

18. (Previously Proposed) The method of claim 9, wherein the plural attachment types comprise an image-type attachment, a video-type attachment, an audio-type attachment, and an email-type attachment.

19. (Previously Proposed) The method of claim 9, wherein the header information identifies a name of a sender, a sending date, and a subject of the e-mail.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the e-mail message data further identifies a total number of e-mails directed to the client.

21-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method for converting e-mail data into audio data, the method comprising:

converting e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data to audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data, the audio attachment-type identifier data being an announcement of the existence and type of an attachment to the email; and

transmitting the audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data as an audio signal,

wherein the transmitting is performed without going through an intermediary between an email server and a client.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said intermediary is an electronic mail client program.

30. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said intermediary is an electronic mail client program.